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NEWS AT RANDOM

Federal

The Swiss Federal Railways carried 19.8 million passengers during January 1959, or 500,000 more than in January 1958. Receipts: 24.5 million francs (January 1958: 23.9 million francs).

Goods traffic is returned as 1.64 million tons, or 80,000 less than in January 1958. Receipts: 32.7 million francs (January 1958: 35.1 million francs).

* * *

Monsieur Carl Adalbert Constantin Brun, from 1953 to 1957 Minister Plenipotentiary and Envoy Extraordinary, and since 1957 Danish Ambassador in Berne, has died in Monte Carlo whilst on holiday.

* * *

A dinner of the Foreign Consular Corps, presided over by the Belgian Consul, M. R. Gerster, took place in Berne; there were 40 Consuls and Consular employees present. The President of the Bernese Government, Mr. Siegenthaler, and the Mayor of the town of Berne were the guests of the Consular Corps.

* * *

Cantonal

Twenty-eight members of the Basle section of the Swiss Alpine Club made a skiing excursion to the "Blumberg" in the Muota Valley Alps (Ct. Schwyz). Near the summit, Mr. Hans Zemp (30), a fitter residing in Basle, fell into a ravine and was killed. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Two boys, Adriano and Ivo Beeler, three and six years old, lost their lives in a fire which broke out in an old house in Lachen (Ct. Schwyz). [A.T.S.]

* * *

The 35 million loan, at 3½ per cent, of the "Blenio Kraftwerke A.G." was heavily over-subscribed, and allocations had to be considerable reduced. [A.T.S.]

* * *

An unsuccessful attempt at robbery occurred at the "Ersparniskasse" Rueggisberg (Ct. Berne). Two individuals entered the bank premises and without warning one of the men threw a heavy stone, wrapped

in a handkerchief, at the cashier, without, however, hitting him; his accomplice then brandished a revolver at the cashier, who was able to take shelter. At that moment, the gangsters were interrupted by a workman, and took flight in a motor car which had been reported as having been stolen. The police have been able to make three arrests; one of the men taken into custody is a certain Werner Lehmann (25) who had recently escaped from prison. [A.T.S.]

* * *

A taxi-driver in Berne was attacked by his passenger, who knocked him down with a piece of heavy cable. Being armed, the taxi-driver fired several shots at his attacker who, however, managed to get away. The passenger, and an accomplice who had followed the taxi on a motor-cycle, were later arrested by the police; they were of French nationality. [A.T.S.]

* * *

A private aircraft piloted by Ulrich Zellweger, of Steffisburg (Ct. Berne), carrying two passengers, crashed on landing near the Blausee (Bernese Oberland), owing to engine trouble.

The two passengers, Ernst Bickel (20), of Thierachern, and Gerold Faessler (20), of Frutigen, and the pilot were killed. [A.T.S.]

* * *

While on leave from the "Rekrutenschule" in Lausanne, recruit René Caloz (20), of Siders, was run over and killed by a train near the Siders railway station. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The accounts for 1958 of the canton of Zug show a credit balance of 11,540.— francs. [A.T.S.]

* * *

A robbery attempt was made at a chemist shop in the Thunstrasse in Berne. A man (about 30 years of age) entered the shop, and producing a revolver asked the proprietor's wife, who was in attendance, to hand over the contents of the till. The woman, in her turn, took aim with a revolver at the gangster, who took to his heels. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The oldest inhabitant of the town of Basle, Frau Witwe Caroline Fiechter-Singer, has celebrated her 103rd birthday. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The accounts of the canton of St. Gall for 1958 close with a deficit of 1,678,606.— francs. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Dr. Jur. Stefan Sonder (Conservative), of Salouf (Ct. Grisons), entered the National Council in succession to the late Dr. Rudolf Toggenburg. [A.T.S.]